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THREE TO WATCH IN SOCHI

- **6 a.m.** Charles Hamelin, who won two gold in Vancouver, looks to hit the podium in the 1,500-metre short track.
- **9 a.m.** Canada competes in both men's curling and women's hockey.
- **12 p.m.** Canada looks to continue its moguls dominance, this time on the men's side. Alex Bilodeau, seen above, will look to defend his Vancouver Olympic title. GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO

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MOIR VIRTUE, MORE MEDALS

Ice dance pair Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir skate around with the Canadian flag following the flower ceremony for the team figure skating competition at the Iceberg Skating Palace in Sochi, Russia. Canada earned a silver medal, with Russia winning the gold and U.S. the bronze. More Olympic coverage, pages 3 & 13-14. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Province shows its Olympic pride

Solidarity. Flag flies at legislature as symbolic statement against Russia's anti-gay laws during Sochi Games — will Regina and Saskatoon be next?

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
Metro in Regina

Regina and Saskatoon have not — as of yet — joined countless cities across the globe in flying the rainbow pride flag during the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, in protest of that country's new laws prohibiting "pro-gay propaganda."

But the international symbol for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) pride has won a prominent place at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building.

Premier Brad Wall confirmed on Saturday that the pride flag would fly at the legislature in a show of solidarity with LGBT activists in Russia.

The pride flag flies at the Saskatchewan legislature, Sunday. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO IN REGINA

"In Saskatchewan we protect human rights and stand against discrimination," Wall wrote on Twitter.

"We join other provinces in flying the Pride flag."

New Democratic Party Leader Cam Broten said he is "very pleased" to see the flag at the legislature in Regina after it was raised on Saturday, calling it representative of Saskatchewan's values of "diversity and inclusion."

Whether the flag will fly at city hall in either of the province's two largest urban centres during the Games, however, remains up in the air.

Saskatoon Coun. Pat Lorje said she supports the idea of raising the pride flag, and added that she and her city hall colleagues will vote on Monday on whether to join other Canadian cities in the gesture.

"We should be flying the pride flag during the Olympics," Lorje said.

Regina Mayor Michael Fougere said he has "no problems" with raising the flag, but stressed that an official request to do so would have to be submitted first.

Dan Shier, marketing director with the Regina Pride organization, told Metro that he filed a formal request on Saturday and expects that the city will eventually hoist the flag.

"Having our community leaders (and) government officials doing their part in raising that flag speaks a lot," Shier said.

Fougere noted that the flag usually flies at city hall during Regina's annual Queen City Pride Festival.

WITH FILES FROM MORGAN MODJESKI

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Teen Athlete's Sight Restored

Former Team Canada gymnast receives cornea transplant and resumes active life

At 13, Alysa Samaratunga's life was full of promise. A talented gymnast from Vancouver, B.C., she spent 40 hours per week in training and travelled the world winning medals for Team Canada. Her goal was to participate in the 2012 London Olympics. But all that changed in – what one could say was – a blink of an eye.

"I woke up one morning with an eye infection," remembers Alysa. "I'm not sure what set it off, maybe bacteria behind my contacts, maybe from a hot tub."

It started as itching and soreness and soon become debilitating. As the infection grew, Alysa's pain became almost unbearable and her right eye went cloudy white. Alysa's mom, Kate Samaratunga, could see that the infection was spreading and that her daughter was suffering. With continued insistence, Kate had Alysa seen by an ophthalmologist. The infection cleared by putting drops into the eye every 15 minutes for three days. But by this point, Alysa had lost vision in the eye. For four months following the infection, which was diagnosed as Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Alysa was out of commission. With no depth perception, her Olympic dreams died.

Alysa adjusted to life with sight in only one eye, but as a former athlete and as a teenager, there were many normal, everyday things she could not do. "I would try to pour a glass of milk and I would miss the glass," Alysa recalls. And she knew she couldn't get her driver's license. Her only hope to resume a normal life was a cornea transplant.

"At any given time, more than 2,000 people may be waiting for transplants across Canada and wait times can vary from four or five months to three years," says Dr. Guillermo Rocha, a Manitoba cornea transplant surgeon and a member of the Canadian Ophthalmological Society.

Alysa Samaratunga, from Vancouver, B.C., is thankful for the cornea donation that restored sight in her right eye.

Although Dr. Rocha observes that cornea waitlists have improved slightly over the past few years, he asserts that Canada still needs a national strategy on organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Wait times vary widely across the country and cornea transplant surgeons typically manage their own wait lists. It's not that corneal tissue is particularly hard to come by; in fact, it's quite the opposite. "Of all the types of transplantations, I would say cornea transplant is the easiest," Rocha says. "You basically want a cornea that is healthy." Individuals who are near- or farsighted, for example, are still good candidates as cornea donors.

"The sad thing is that we know if we were elsewhere, like in the United States or even India or Colombia, they would be getting corneal tissue within two weeks," says Rocha. Waiting lists are almost nonexistent in other countries, including the U.S. and the U.K. "You can schedule a surgery there and you know a cornea will be available."

Alysa had her transplant at Mount St. Joseph's Hospital, Vancouver within 18 months of the initial infection and it changed her life. She is now in her last year of high school and is looking at a career in business. She's obtained her driver's license and re-entered the sports arena through competitive cheerleading.

"I am so thankful for the opportunity at having full sight again," says Alysa. "It's allowed me to live my life to the fullest without the limitations. I'm so grateful to the donor and I want the family to know I will make the most out of my second chance at full sight. My condolence goes out to the family who lost their loved one and I thank you for giving me the gift of sight again."
Public opinion polls conducted by Canadian Blood Services have shown that 95 per cent of Canadians support the idea of organ and tissue donation. But only 51 per cent say they are willing to donate their organs and only 39 per cent say they are willing to donate their tissues.

There are not enough eye donors in Canada to meet the needs of Canadians, and new patients are being diagnosed and added to the waiting lists. Thousands continue to suffer from corneal blindness while they wait for a donor. Corneal blindness can be the result of injury, infection or disease. Eye donation is an opportunity to restore the sight of Canadians suffering from corneal blindness, and allow them to live a fuller life. Most people can become an eye donor. People who wear glasses can donate in most instances and individuals with cancer or diabetes may become eye donors.

"Families find comfort in knowing their loved one's last act was to give the gift of sight and life through eye and organ donation," says Dr. Martin McCarthy, Alysa's surgeon. "Please talk to your family about your wish to be an eye donor."

One donor can restore sight for two people and potentially help many more people in the transplantation of other organs and tissues. Sign up today. The ways to register or declare your intentions to donate vary from province to province. Go to **organsandtissues.ca/donate** and click on your province to find out how to become a donor.

Insight

The facts about cornea tissue, transplants and wait times

Blindness and vision degeneration due to conditions affecting the cornea are treatable. With cornea transplants, vision can be restored. But as shown by statistics (see below), the wait for transplants in Canada can be long and the effects of vision loss are grave.

An estimated 2,000 Canadians are waiting for a cornea transplant. Transplant wait times in Canada can vary from four or five months up to three years.

There are eight eye banks in Canada, excluding the province of Quebec.

Financial and societal costs of vision loss are significant.* People with vision loss typically experience the following:

- twice the risk of a fall or premature death
- low income — the employment rate of working-age adults with significant vision loss is only 32%, and 50% of adults with vision loss live in poverty
- more medication errors
- two to five times as much difficulty with daily living
- three times as much clinical depression
- twice as much social dependence

* "The Cost of Vision Loss in Canada," CNIB and the Canadian Ophthalmological Society, 2009

Canadian Blood Services
Société canadienne du sang

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Bronze as good as gold for family of Sask. Olympian

Mark McMorris.
Snowboarder had big dreams since he was a youngster: Grandma

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

It's an Olympics that the McMorris family will never forget.

Relatives of bronze medallist Mark McMorris are filled with pride after the 20-year-old Regina snowboarder won a bronze medal in the slopestyle event in Sochi on Saturday.

"It's wonderful," said Thelma McMorris, Mark's 93-year-old grandmother, from Moose Jaw on Sunday.

She said she was surprised her grandson competed with a broken rib suffered a couple weeks earlier at the X Games.

"I know he was expected to do better by Canada, but I think he did very well by being there and competing."

John McMorris said it's been a journey watching his nephew go from his home hill of Mission Ridge in Fort Qu'Appelle to the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park in Sochi.

"To come from Saskatchewan and do what he has done is just truly remarkable," John McMorris said.

Ann Fichter, Mark's other grandmother, said her grandson has wanted to compete on the global stage since he was a youngster.

"He used to say to his grandpa, 'I want to go international.' Well, we would sort of smile ... and now he's done it," Fichter said from Victoria, B.C.

"I would have loved to be in the gold-medal position," said Mark McMorris, "but with what I've been through in the last two weeks, just standing on the podium in general feels like a gold medal to me."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Game time

"He doesn't get nervous; he gets mad — and when he gets mad, he lays it down."
John McMorris, Mark's uncle

Bronze medallist Mark McMorris celebrates during a medal ceremony for the snowboarding slopestyle event at the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi on Saturday. PAUL GILHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Bullying bylaw would target middle ground

Youth and adults in Saskatoon who repeatedly torment others could soon be held accountable for their actions.

On Monday, Coun. Ann Iwanchuk will put forth a recommendation to council that, if passed, will set the wheels in motion for a new anti-bullying bylaw.

"There are criminal charges that can be laid if something is very serious, but we don't have anything to bridge the gap between doing nothing and charging criminally," said Iwanchuk.

"Most of the bullying is in that grey area, and so this is just to assist the police in doing their job."

She added there would likely be a financial penalty.

It all began when Brigette Krieg, a professor at the University of Regina's Saskatoon campus, appealed to council last year.

Krieg said that when her daughter was in Grade 9 she was subject to a barrage of vicious text messages from classmates.

"I found as a parent there was nothing I could do," she said.

After mediation attempts at the school proved impossible, Krieg turned to the police. However, their hands were tied until Krieg could produce enough damaging information to qualify for a criminal harassment suit.

Even after her daughter was driven out of the school, said Krieg, the humiliation continued. Someone posted her personal information online, inviting strangers to send intimate images.

The police suggested she instruct her daughter to turn off her phone and refrain from using the Internet.

"Why do I have to limit how she interacts with technology when she's the victim?" asked Krieg.

JACOB MORGAN/METRO

The problem

"There are criminal charges that can be laid if something is very serious, but we don't have anything to bridge the gap between doing nothing and charging criminally."
Coun. Ann Iwanchuk, on the need for the bylaw.

22nd and 3rd

Driver accused of running into elderly pedestrian

A 38-year-old Saskatoon man has been charged with failing to yield to a pedestrian after he hit a 76-year-old man on Friday night.

Police say the collision occurred at roughly 8 p.m. when a car driving southbound on 22nd Street made a right turn on 3rd Avenue.

As the car was turning, it hit the 76-year-old man, who was walking eastbound across 3rd Avenue in the crosswalk on a walk light.

The pedestrian was taken to hospital in serious condition, but police say his condition was upgraded to stable on Saturday evening. METRO

Police say the victim's condition has been upgraded to stable. METRO FILE

Solomon Roberts

Snowmobiler's body found

Mounties in northern Saskatchewan have identified a body pulled from Otter Lake over the weekend as that of an elderly man whose snowmobile fell through the ice nearly three months ago.

Stanley Mission RCMP say officers responded to a call about a body in the northerly waterway at approximately 10:20 a.m. on Saturday.

Police confirmed it was the missing Solomon Roberts, 66, from Grandmother's Bay, some 500 kilometres north of Saskatoon.

Roberts died in November after emergency crews were unable to rescue him when his snowmobile fell through the ice. METRO

Building bridges? Money for 'major infrastructure projects' will be in budget

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says his upcoming federal budget will contain money for "major" infrastructure projects.

Flaherty told CTV's Question Period that infrastructure is a good investment, but the government must be prudent at the same time.

"There will be money for infrastructure, and very importantly, major infrastructure projects in Canada, major economic infrastructure projects," Flaherty said.

"It is all about the economy and jobs. I mean, that's the primary job of the federal government in this country. We will be investing and we will be ensuring that we move forward on the economic front, not just balance the budget."

One such project might be a second bridge between Detroit and Windsor, Ont. Reports earlier this month said Canada plans to start buying land on the Michigan side of the Detroit River to build the new crossing, a short distance from the existing Ambassador Bridge.

Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty speaks in Toronto on Friday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In its recent throne speech, the Harper government signalled it would spend billions of dollars over the next decade on major regional infrastructure projects. The throne speech explicitly mentioned the second Detroit-Windsor bridge, subways in the Greater Toronto Area, replacing the Champlain Bridge in Montreal and building Vancouver's Evergreen Line rapid-transit extension.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Canadian Idol' doctor to stand trial for terrorism

Terror suspect Khurram Syed Sher, who was arrested in August on terrorism charges related to an alleged bomb plot, leaves the Ottawa Courthouse after being granted bail in 2010. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Attack was months away: RCMP. Khurram Syed Sher faces charges related to alleged plot that stretched from Ottawa to the Mideast

More than three years after his arrest, a man who once auditioned for Canadian Idol will face trial on a terrorism charge.

Khurram Syed Sher, a doctor of pathology from London, Ont., is to be tried by a judge alone in an Ottawa courtroom.

Sher, 31, was charged along with two other men in August 2010 with conspiracy to facilitate terrorism.

Following the sensational arrests, police said they seized terrorist literature, videos and manuals, along with dozens of electronic circuit boards allegedly designed to detonate homemade bombs remotely.

Police claimed the alleged plot stretched from Ottawa to Afghanistan, Dubai, Iran and Pakistan. A senior RCMP officer said at the time that an attack was still months away, but that the plotters were moving into a preparatory phase.

The McGill University graduate, who has been free on bail, worked as an anatomical pathologist at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital in St. Thomas. He made international headlines shortly after his arrest when it emerged he had once sung and danced on the Canadian Idol program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

International effort

An undercover source working for Canada's main spy agency and sensitive intelligence from the U.S. and U.K. helped build the case against the alleged conspirators, court documents indicate.

Copenhagen. Zoo's giraffe killed, fed to lions because its genes not 'interesting'

Copenhagen Zoo turned down offers from other zoos and 500,000 euros ($750,000) from a private individual to save the life of a healthy giraffe before killing and slaughtering it Sunday to follow inbreeding recommendations.

The two-year-old male giraffe, named Marius, was put down using a bolt pistol, spokesman Tobias Stenbaek Bro said, and its meat was fed to carnivores at the zoo. Visitors, including children, were invited to watch while the giraffe was dissected.

Marius' plight triggered a wave of online protests and renewed debate about the conditions of zoo animals. Before the giraffe was killed, an online petition to save it had received more than 20,000 signatures.

Stenbaek Bro said the zoo, which now has seven giraffes left, was recommended by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria to put down Marius, because there were already a lot of giraffes with similar genes in the organization's breeding program.

"The most important factor must be that the animals are healthy physically and behaviourally and that they have a good life while they are living whether this life is long or short. This is something that Copenhagen Zoo believes strongly in," said Bengt Holst, the zoo's scientific director.

Marius, a male giraffe, is eaten by lions after he was put down in a zoo in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Sunday. POLFOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Animal Rights Sweden said the case simply highlights what they believe zoos do to animals regularly. "It is no secret that animals are killed when there is no longer space, or if the animals don't have genes that are interesting enough," the organization said in a statement. "The only way to stop this is to not visit zoos."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Factory owners denied bail after surrender

The two owners of a Bangladesh garment factory who are facing homicide charges for a 2012 fire that killed 112 workers surrendered to a court Sunday and were denied bail. The factory outside the capital, Dhaka, which produced clothing for big retailers including Walmart, had no emergency exits and its location in a narrow alley prevented firefighters from responding quickly to the deadly blaze in November 2012, said prosecutor Anwarul Kabir Babul.

The investigation found that when the fire broke out, managers and security guards told workers it was part of a regular drill and it was too late for many to escape. Workers found the gates locked from outside as the fire engulfed the sprawling building, according to the investigation.

Police filed homicide charges on Dec. 22 against 13 people, including the owners of Tazreen Fashions Ltd., Delwar Hossain and his wife, Mahmuda Akter. Arrest warrants were issued Dec. 31 for six who police said had fled, including the two owners.

Delwar Hossain, centre right, and his wife, Mahmuda Akter, left, are escorted to a court in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After Hossain and Akter surrendered Sunday, a Dhaka court rejected their bail petition and ordered them to be jailed, pending further legal procedures.

If found guilty, the accused face a minimum of seven years and up to life in prison, Babul said. Of the 13 accused, four are still at large.

It's the first time Bangladesh has sought to prosecute factory owners in its lucrative garment industry, which is the world's second largest after China.

The fire is one of several deadly disasters that have exposed harsh and unsafe working conditions in Bangladesh's garment industry. A factory collapse last April killed more than 1,100 workers.

The impoverished South Asian nation earns more than $20 billion a year from garment exports, mainly to the United States and Europe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kashmir

Police hunt for official charged with sex assault

Police were searching Sunday for a lawmaker from Indian-controlled Kashmir who is wanted on charges of sexually assaulting a female doctor in the Himalayan territory, officials said. Chief Judicial Magistrate Rajiv Gupta issued an arrest warrant for Shabir Ahmad Khan on Saturday based on a police complaint filed by the doctor last week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia

Nun killed after man opens fire in cathedral

A 24-year-old man opened fire Sunday in a cathedral on Russia's Sakhalin Island, killing a nun and a parishioner and wounding six others, investigators said. Officers detained the man and were trying to determine why he attacked the Russian Orthodox cathedral in the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, the federal Investigative Committee said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don't just ride out the ups and downs

Take stock.
This RRSP season, go from passenger to driver

HOW TO ROLL
Alison Griffiths
metronews.ca

Inversions, helix turns and barrel rolls are vomit-inducing delights courtesy of the world's scariest roller-coasters. But you don't need to travel to Cedar Point, Ohio, for a dose of fear. Just being invested in the stock market of late will suffice.

Daily triple-digit losses are starting almost to be normal. The S&P/TSX Composite has been gyrating between 12,000 and nearly 14,000 over the past year. The U.S. S&P 500 has been similarly volatile, especially in the last month.

Anemic next-day recoveries throughout January made the dips appear to be normal profit taking after a strong 2013. But last Monday's more than two per cent trouncing felt like the beginning of a rout.

With RRSP season upon us, investors are wondering whether to retreat to the safety of cash, lest a 2008-09–style crash devastate retirement accounts. Those who made that move before the financial crisis was upon us — and then got back into the stock market at the bottom — did brilliantly. But hardly anyone got that bet right.

I don't believe in staying the course and waiting out volatility. Rather, everyone should take a hard look at holdings before investing more money. Automatic investment plans are great conveniences. But they tend to put one in, well, automatic mode.

Before doing anything this RRSP season, look at your equity/fixed-income ratio or asset allocation. Chances are equities have risen as a percentage of the portfolio because of the 2013 market run.

Don't let that continue. Funnel new contributions into fixed income or adjust your automatic investment plan away from equities.

Do your homework

It's often difficult to figure out the equity/fixed-income ratio with mutual funds, which can hold stocks, bonds and cash.

- If mutual funds are lumped together on your statement an adviser can give you a complete breakdown, or you will have to do a bit of legwork yourself.
- If you have 75 per cent in equities, for example, be sure you're comfortable with the risk. Otherwise, reduce and be safe.

Airlines weighed down by baggage of service complaints

A weary traveller searches for her luggage in the baggage-claim area at Toronto's Pearson International Airport in January after a ground stop delayed or cancelled hundreds of flights and created a huge backlog. In its annual report, the Canadian Transportation Agency says it received 301 complaints against eight Canadian carriers in 2012-2013, up from 215 complaints in 2011-2012. Quality-of-service complaints — including allegations about rude, unhelpful staff and poor communication — were the most common for the seventh year in a row. RANDY RISLING/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U.S. jobs data dips down

Yet another thing to pin on the polar vortex?

It could be another volatile week on stock markets as traders are again forced to weigh the distorting effects of harsh winter weather on U.S. employment data.

Markets ended last week positive, with the TSX up 0.67 per cent and the Dow industrials ahead 0.6 per cent, as traders tried to make the best of January employment data showing the U.S. economy created only 113,000 jobs against the 180,000 that had been expected. That followed a meagre 74,000 gain in December, another month of harsh weather.

Despite the overall gains for the week, there were huge swings on both the TSX and the Dow after data for China and the U.S. showed a slowdown in manufacturing, raising concerns about whether economic problems in emerging markets can be contained.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PARKING NOT FIT FOR THIS CITY

URBAN COMPASS

Christina Cherneskey
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During the late 19th century, the term "downtown" was gradually adopted by cities across Canada to refer to the historical and commercial core of a city. There, buildings were constructed, banks were established and department stores became points-of-commerce, as well as meeting places for friends and family.

Now, our downtowns in Saskatchewan's major centres just seem to be parking lots.

But try as our city halls might, there is not one solid proposal between Saskatoon and Regina to attract more business to downtown cores. Shoppers have more options on the outskirts and hard-earned "local" dollar falls into the hands of corporate North America.

Saskatoon's recent "City Centre Plan" calls for more multi-level parking. Regina's new draft budget includes a doubling of parking fees downtown.

But this still will not prevent nine-to-fivers from commandeering precious parking downtown. In turn, the valued consumer simply gives up on trying to shop downtown because there is no place to park.

Granted, Regina and Saskatoon — in the grand scheme of things —are not historical attractions. But these cities do illustrate the wonderful history of their development. Look closely at some of the structures and indeed, you will find original stonework and architecture. The Canada Building in Saskatoon comes to mind, as does Hotel Saskatchewan in Regina.

City government should encourage more business development in their downtowns. How dispiriting to see councils' lack of creativity while attempting to inject more development into the very cores that once inspired the cities to grow.

But it's Regina that fails the grade. During the day, parking appears to be only for the privileged. No wonder Queen City businesses throw their hands up in frustration and give up. Soon, downtown Regina will hold no allure.

City councils in Regina and Saskatoon need to do better. It should be attractive to go downtown, not a chore. Shopping, eating and getting services should be an event. It has been proven time and time again that city centres which are thriving attract more people, more business and more money.

The duty of a city government is to preserve the precious resources its city offers. And if downtown has become a challenge to maintain, roll up your sleeves and do better. Do not allow employees to park all day on the streets; ensure private parking lots have spaces for the casual consumer; provide consistent and free transit to the city centre from larger parking lots outside the core. Give people a reason to go downtown.

Steps such as these would show the established businesses that their government has faith in their intentions and is grateful for their efforts.

To the governments that boast about Saskatchewan's prosperity, show off your greatest resource — the roots of the cities that brought people here in the first place.

ZOOM

Since it's not in the Olympics yet ...

CLEMENT ALLARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cheese trumps insurance at Carnival

Team Fromagerie Ile aux Grues, pictured in red, won the ice canoe race on the St. Lawrence River as part of Quebec's Winter Carnival activities Sunday in Quebec City. Team La Capitale insurance, in blue, finished second.

Ice canoeing started as a gruelling, dangerous, necessary means of transportation to cross the frozen Saint Lawrence River during the winter. The legend is that the racing began as a competition between families for the contract to deliver the mail. Now there's several regular annual races, including at Quebec City's Carnaval de Quebec, the biggest winter carnival in the world. More than 40 teams compete, struggling with the powerful current, great chunks of ice and numbing water.

Other Carnival activities for the 17-day festival include night parades, ice fishing, concerts, snow sculptures, slide runs, horse-drawn sleigh or dogsled rides, skating and a giant foot ball game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CANADACOOL.COM

Sorry, Sochi

The race is the main event of the carnival. The teams race across the St. Lawrence River from Quebec City (Basin Louise) to Lévis, and back. The St. Lawrence is the only place in the world where this sport is practised.

WE ACT:

CANADA DOES GOOD

Q&A with an inner-city community builder

CONTRIBUTED

Each month, we learn about Canadians across the nation who are up to a whole lot of good. Here's one we'd like you to meet.

Who: Jamil Mahmood, grassroots community development leader
Where: Winnipeg, MB
What: Community leader
Why: "When you make little steps at the community level, it has a lot of impact."

Nine years ago, Mahmood's passion for community development led him to Winnipeg's public gardens to co-ordinate summer programs for the Spence Neighbourhood Association. There, he met many youth and learned about the challenges they faced and the dialogue they wanted to start around improving their community. They just needed an activity to get the ball rolling.

So Mahmood started a soccer program. What started as kids kicking a ball around a field has grown into the inner city's largest sports program—one of many community initiatives he oversees.

What's the first step of getting involved?
"Getting to know people. Before I started doing work with community members, I always got to know what they're about. Hearing families' stories and challenges was eye-opening."

Most rewarding part of your work? "Last year a youth that played on our first-ever team got a full-ride basketball scholarship to the University of Victoria. When you give kids an opportunity to play and they run with it, you know you're doing something right!"

CRAIG AND MARC KIELBURGER

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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Addison Timlin and Anton Yelchin star in Odd Thomas, part of the Sinister Cinema series. CONTRIBUTED

That odd thing called love

Addison Timlin.
Actress talks about her leading lady role in the Dean-Koontz-penned Odd Thomas

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

There's something odd about Odd Thomas, both the film and the same-named protagonist played by Fright Night's Anton Yelchin.

The eerie, lively and amusing supernatural adventure (which opens this Friday in Canada and is directed by The Mummy's Stephen Sommers) is an adaptation of the celebrated cult novel by horror-meister Dean Koontz in which sweet-natured short order cook Odd uses his uncanny ability to "see dead people" to avenge ghosts, battle a human fungus and save the world.

But behind every good monster-hunting man is a good — and tolerant — woman, and Odd's main squeeze is the lovely Stormy Llewellyn played by the equally lovely Addison Timlin (Zero Hour). Playing a beloved character with literary origins wasn't a task taken lightly by the 22-year-old actress.

"First and foremost," Timlin says, "you have to share the character."

"Stormy was not my own, I had to create a version of her. I had to find a way to capture how lovely her spirit was and I did read the books. There was plenty of highlighting and tons of notes. And since Anton helped find his character by training with a real fry cook, I ended up working at an ice cream parlor in New Mexico. Seriously."

Such dedication to sculpting a multidimensional character in an effects-heavy supernatural horror-drama is to be commended. The result of both Yelchin and Timlin's methods is a palpable on-screen romance that — although never really explained — is genuinely moving, a rare chemistry that is refreshingly bereft of exposition.

"It's really very simple," says the actress. "We all decided that when you're really in love, your whole world becomes that thing, two people who really understand each other, who have certain attributes of each others' personalities in each other, who have this rapport with each other.

"I'm a sucker for romance in any case and that's what drew me to the film first and foremost, its love story."

And for those viewers cautious of watching an intimate dark fantasy drama helmed by one of Hollywood's most indulgent directors (Outside of The Mummy films, Sommers also directed the bloated Van Helsing and G.I. Joe), Timlin assures that Sommers had complete control. "I think people forget that before The Mummy, Stephen was a writer first. He has a good eye for moments between people and a genuine love for storytelling. And Dean Koontz loves the movie, which should tell you something!"

Sinister Cinema

Odd Thomas is part of Cineplex's Sinister Cinema series. For more information on screening times and locations, visit cineplex.com.

E-books

Rain Shadow

By. Rebecca Hansen Carrer

iBooks

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

The prospect of undiscovered wealth drove men to shameful acts of subterfuge and violence in the late 1800's acquisition of water rights for Los Angeles. This well-researched, fictionalized account follows a young girl as she grows up through the corruption. Zoomable maps, a music score, and pop-up history notes enhance the story.

RoboCop. Canuck actors thrilled with the tech

The '80s classic RoboCop gets a movie makeover this week with a slew of modern-day visual effects, but the star of the film is still that heavily armoured suit, say two of the reboot's Canadian co-stars.

The beloved action flick returns Wednesday with Joel Kinnaman in the leading role of Alex Murphy, a critically injured cop who is transformed into a human-robot hybrid by a corporation bent on reinventing law enforcement. As in the original, the action is set in a futuristic crime-ridden Detroit.

Toronto-bred co-star K.C. Collins says performing opposite a fully encased Kinnaman — who was forced to wear a costume weighing roughly 20 kilograms — was "very intense" and "very intimidating."

"The suit is still the suit," says Collins, who plays a street-smart fellow cop. "The suit is still hardware, it's tangible in this film, it's not something that's, like, throw a few (motion capture) dots or whatnot and then go create it on the computer."

As a fan of the original 1987 film, Collins says he was glad to be just as impressed with the eye-popping visuals as he was when he was a kid.

He recalled watching the film's Swedish star, best known in North America for starring in The Killing, enter his trailer as a regular guy but emerge as a deadly machine.

"It was weird to see how one can be transformed in front of your eyes into a superhero," says Collins, who added that he had not yet seen the final film.

"That was incredible. We deal a lot with green screen and whatnot in this business, but to really see him put on this suit ... it was incredible. That was interesting for me as an actor who's seen a lot — to still be amazed. That's always the best feeling."

The action takes place in 2028, but the science on display is all very plausible, says fellow Canuck co-star Patrick Garrow, who marvelled at advances in day-to-day technology since the original film debuted in 1987.

But despite all the cool tools on display, this is not just a blow-'em-up action flick, he adds, noting that the deeper social themes that endeared the first RoboCop to fans and critics alike were maintained.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Actors Gary Oldman and Joel Kinnaman pose with RoboCop. CONTRIBUTED

SCENE

Now plagiarizing for press conferences, too

Shia LaBeouf makes a statement at the Berlin Film Festival. GETTY IMAGES

Welcome to the deep end, Shia LaBeouf. The actor, who has had quite the time of it these past few months, is racking up more weirdness points after showing up at a press conference for Nymphomaniac in Berlin on Sunday looking filthy, "missing a lower tooth," and then storming out after uttering a nonsensical quote. Oh, and then he showed up on the red carpet with a bag on his head.

And all of this was after he almost got into a fight with three "fans" in a hotel lobby on Saturday after they tried to take his picture.

So, let's backtrack a bit: In December, it was discovered that LaBeouf's new short film, HowardCantour.com, was basically lifted from a 2007 comic by Ghost World author Dan Clowes. A huge firestorm erupted. LaBeouf took to skywriting to apologize, inscribing, "I'm sorry Daniel Clowes" over Los Angeles on New Year's Day.

Now back to the Nymphomaniac press conference. LaBeouf appeared next to his costars Christian Slater, Stacy Martin, Uma Thurman and Stellan Skarsgård beat up, dirty and, yes, missing a tooth.

Someone then asked him this softball question: What did he think about doing a movie with so many sex scenes? He paused several beats, then replied, "When the seagulls follow the trawler, it's because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea. Thank you very much." He then left the room while his costars looked on and then softly applauded.

At first, everyone thought that LaBeouf actually said something not plagiarized for once, but that dream was quickly erased. Turns out, LaBeouf's line was borrowed from French soccer player Eric Cantona, who baffled reporters with it in the mid-1990s following his suspension for a flying kick on a heckler.

Later on Sunday, LaBeouf showed up on the red carpet with the bag on his head. Because, well, why not? Look, LaBeouf. Not sure what is going on here, but we've already suffered through the antics of Joaquin Phoenix, and that's enough for one decade.

WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Where the little things mean *Everything.*

Valentino is under fire for sending out a photo of Adams carrying one of the company's bags at Philip Seymour Hoffman's wake. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Valentino left holding bag for photo promo gaffe

The fashion house Valentino has apologized for touting in an email blast to journalists that one of their pricey bags was carried by Amy Adams as she stepped from a car at the wake of Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Much was made of the promotional email sent Friday, complete with two photos of Adams outside the Thursday wake. Valentino said in a statement that quickly followed that the company didn't realize the photos were snapped at the sad gathering of loved ones for Hoffman, who was found dead Feb. 2 of an apparent heroin overdose in his apartment.

Hoffman, 46, co-starred with Adams in The Master and both his wake, and funeral the next day, were attended by numerous celebrities, Adams included. "We sincerely regret releasing a photo to the media ... of Amy Adams with a Valentino Bag. We were not aware the photograph was taken while she was attending the wake of Philip Seymour Hoffman. It was an innocent mistake and we apologize to Ms. Adams who was not aware, or a part of, our PR efforts," said the regretful statement signed by Mona Swanson, vice-president of communications for Valentino USA. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Pop goes the week

Poor Paltrow gets the push from her neighbours

STARGAZING
Malene Arpe
scene@metronews.ca

Gwyneth Paltrow is selling her London house, reportedly because all the neighbours dislike her. That is such a mean, terrible lie. She's being forced to move because the neighbours all refuse to wear organically sourced cotton and it hurts her eyes.

J.K. Rowling says that she very much regrets Hermione and Ron's romantic relationship and that she now believes Hermione should have ended up with Harry. It's infuriating and upsetting news but, fortunately for everybody, those people DON'T EXIST.

Queen Elizabeth has reportedly told Duchess Kate to lower her hemlines and to start wearing more traditional jewelry such as tiaras. Not because the Queen really cares, but it's the little things that keep life fun.

A new study shows that the earning power of actresses starts declining at age 34, while actors reach their financial peak at age 51. Before you get your lady-undies in a knot, please remember that 51 is the age when the mistresses, the cars and the pinky rings start getting really expensive, so it's really only fair.

Bradley Cooper's girlfriend Suki Waterhouse is the new face of UGGs. So many questions! Did she get the gig because of fame-adjacency? How much will she earn? If UGGs need a face, does that mean my hat needs a foot?

Twitter

@SofiaVergara
I eat props

@PamGrier
NBA Jam Allstars and Mardi Gras will rock in New Orleans in a few days! Carnival! La la la la, la la la la.....

@tomhanks
Research for a job. Really. Riding Colossus twice. Then Magic Mountain!

This season, would you please pass the catch-up?

Leave that loan alone. When it comes to your RRSPs, 'tis nobler to stock up on contributions than to borrow that cash

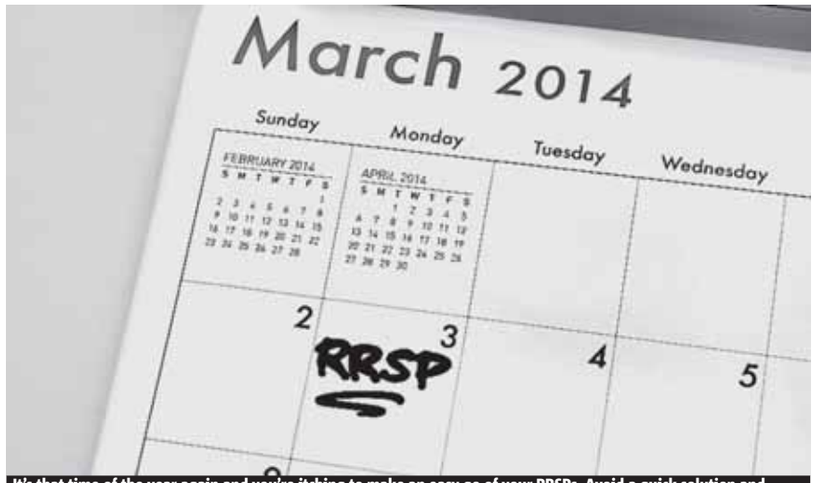
GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at gailvazoxlade.com

Every RRSP season I get a slew of letters from people who want to ask me about borrowing money to catch-up unused RRSP contribution room. Their bankers have convinced them to borrow big-time to catch up on all the RRSP contributions they hadn't made.

I thought this might be on more than one person's mind since it's RRSP season and the marketing material is flying in the door at a wicked clip. Remember that by its nature, marketing material is designed to show you the positive side of a strategy so you'll want to take advantage of the "offer." But not all offers are worthy of your attention.

Let's take the case of Nancy, who wants to borrow $45,000 to catch-up her unused RRSP room. When I brought up Scotiabank's calculator, the default interest rate was 7.5 per cent. Nancy plans to repay $530 a month.

Assuming Nancy applies her tax refund — Scotia's calculator says it'll be $15,750 — to her catch up loan, it will take Nancy 10 years to get out from under this debt and it'll cost over $7,000 in interest by the time the loan is repaid, assuming her interest rate does not go up one iota over the next decade. Hmmm. I wouldn't take that bet!



It's that time of the year again and you're itching to make an easy go of your RRSPs. Avoid a quick solution and pack your piggy bank instead. ISTOCK

That's gonna cost ya

I'm not a fan of catch-up loans. I think they play into people's needs for immediate gratification. And that immediate gratification comes with a hefty price tag in terms of the interest cost.
Gail Vaz-Oxlade

But hang on a second. That tax refund might not be right. Since we pay tax on a sliding scale, as the deduction is applied, Nancy's marginal tax rate might go down so that instead of getting a $15,750 refund, she ends up with less.

The calculator doesn't take that into consideration, nor do most of scenarios in those marketing brochures. The result is that people get back less in taxes than they imagined and get stuck paying back their loan for longer.

Do I think this is a good idea? I DO NOT.

If interest rates go up, Nancy could find her higher payments putting more pressure on her budget, since the loan rate is only fixed for the first year.

And with a loan repayment eating up a large slice of her budget pie, will Nancy be able to afford to make her regular RRSP contributions? If the answer is "No," at the end of the catch-up loan she would have to catch up the contributions she didn't make while she was repaying the loan. Sounds like a catch-22 to me.

Here's an option Nancy might want to consider. She could set up a monthly investment plan and contribute the amounts she would have paid on the loan to her RRSP. It may take a little longer to catch up, but she would have no interest costs. All her money will be working for her instead of making a bank even more profitable.

I'm not a fan of catch-up loans. I think they play into people's needs for immediate gratification. And that immediate gratification comes with a hefty price tag in terms of the interest cost.

Saving and investing are long-term, slow and steady propositions. If you want to catch up your RRSP unused contribution room, trim back on your expenses or make enough extra money to sock away what you want. Don't borrow it.

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RRSP-ECT GAIL!

Don't even bother trying to come up with an excuse for why you can't save a dollar a day. It'll be lame.

- Every day slip a loonie into a rinsed out soup can. At the end of the month you'll have your first $30. By the time you take the can opener to that sucker, you'll have a healthy deposit for your TFSA, RRSP or emergency savings.

Honey, the toddler wants his tablet again!

Apple before ABCs? Canadian kids can navigate a tablet before they can tie their laces: report

A global study of how young kids are using the Internet found Canadians were spending less time online and were less likely to have their own email address or social media account.

Still, more of the three- to five-year-old Canadian children involved in the study knew how to use a mouse and play computer games than ride a bike or write their name.

The survey of more than 6,000 mothers in 10 countries was conducted by security software company AVG Technologies, which researched how kids between the ages of three to five and six to nine were engaged with the Internet.

About 89 per cent of the kids in the older group were already Internet users, while the figure was one percentage point higher in Canada. A whopping 97 per cent of the Brazilian kids and 96 per cent of the British children in that age bracket were familiar with the Internet.

When the parents of the six- to nine-year-old kids were asked how long they allowed their children to go online the most common reply was between two to five hours a week (42 per cent), followed by less than two hours weekly (36 per cent), five to 10 hours a week (16 per cent) and more than ten hours weekly (seven per cent).

About 40 per cent of the Canadian parents said they limited Internet time to less than two hours a week and 48 per cent said they allowed two to five hours of web time weekly.

Although it's emerged as a bit of a trend among digitally obsessed parents, few involved in the survey said they made a point of registering an email address for their baby or toddler.

Just eight per cent of the parents said they reserved an email address with their child's name, while six per cent of the Canadian moms did so.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baby on (key)board!

- As for what the younger three- to five-year-old kids were doing themselves, 78 per cent of the Canadian tots could already use a computer mouse, 76 per cent could play a basic computer game, 54 per cent knew how to turn a computer on and off, 40 per cent could navigate a tablet or smartphone, 19 per cent could competently browse the web, and 16 per cent could make a phone call.

Slavery myths in Canada

Myth No. 1

Slavery never existed in Canada, right?

Many Canadians are under the assumption that slavery never existed in Canada (or not at the same levels found in the U.S.), which is false.

The first recorded slave to arrive in Canada was a six-year-old boy named Olivier le Jeune from Madagascar in 1628. Most slaves were imported from other British colonies and the Americas.

Myth No. 2

Canada was the first to abolish slavery before other parts of the world followed suit.

Politicians enacted legislation in 1793 that set limitations on slavery in the country. The 1793 bill meant anyone born a slave would secure his freedom when he turned 25. At the time, the average lifespan of a slave was 20 to 25 years. But slavery wasn't officially abolished until 1833 when Britain abolished it.

Myth No. 3

Weren't all black slaves who escaped to Canada from the U.S. afforded all the civil liberties enjoyed by other European Canadians?

Despite the warm and fuzzy images and scenes displayed in most current-day slave narratives, black slaves who escaped to Canada faced discrimination, violence and segregation. Unlike racist legislation, like the Jim Crow laws, passed in the U.S., Canada had largely unwritten racist codes, which many could argue made it more difficult for black people in Canada.

Myth No. 4

Slaves who escaped north lived out the rest of their lives in Canada.

Some former slaves left Canada for the U.S. once slavery was abolished in America to escape difficulties in Canada and for chances at upward mobility afforded to them by moving to cities with higher black populations. Entire generations of black Canadians were completely lost to Canadian history by moving to the U.S.

TAKARA SMALL

Canada's unknown slave-owning past

Black History Month. Historians believe about 5,000 slaves were brought to the country. Their stories are often left out of the history books

TAKARA SMALL
life@metronews.ca

You've heard this story before: A group of slaves escape for freedom in the middle of the night. But here's the twist: These slaves weren't running toward Canada. They were running from it — fleeing from Canadian slave owners and headed for freedom in Detroit.

While American slavery is having a moment in Hollywood thanks to the Oscar-nominated film 12 Years a Slave, the story of Canadian slaves — whose lives were as unjust and inhumane as those in the south — has largely been ignored.

"We tend to think of it as 'not in my backyard' myth about slavery," says Delorean Kilen, project coordinator at the Ontario Black History Society. "People don't remember that slavery existed here because we've been 'slave-free' longer than the U.S."

Slavery existed in Canada for more than 200 years and was officially abolished 30 years before the Emancipation Proclamation order was issued by U.S. President Abraham Lincoln.

Historians believe there was an estimated 5,000 slaves who were forcibly brought to Canada, either directly as property, or shipped through the trans-Atlantic slave trade from other British colonies.

In 1793, Upper Canada outlawed importing slaves and the practice was officially abolished in 1833 alongside the rest of the British Empire.

"It's something that people don't want to talk about and are not comfortable talking about," says Natasha Henry, a historian and educator. "Slavery was used as a tool for both (British and Canadian) colonies.

"By ignoring that, we're not portraying a complete history of Canada."

Rosemary Sadlier is one of many Canadians whose roots reach back to pre-Confederation. Her mother's family can be traced to 1840, while her father's ancestors arrived in New Brunswick in 1793.

This painting, originally entitled Portrait of Negro Slave, is one of very view public pieces of art that depicts a black Canadian slave. COURTESY MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

"Everyone assumes that everyone who is black is a recent immigrant, but there are thousands of black Canadians who have been here since the founding of the country," says Sadlier, an author and recipient of the Order of Ontario.

"In my younger years I didn't come away with a real sense of my family's historic contributions to this country and I think there's a way that we are made to feel to various measures that we aren't the same, we haven't paid our dues, we're visitors in someone else's country," she says. "When you have something like black history, it changes all of those stereotypes because you can't be an unwelcome visitor in a country that's your own."

Charmaine Nelson, an art historian and professor at Montreal's McGill University, believes a heavy dose of corrective action is needed to educate people who see slavery as only an American experience.

"We don't ever want to take credit for slavery in Canada so we have to keep it out there in the tropics or the U.S.," she says.

Photos and portraits that depict slavery in Canada are not easily found or publicized, which adds to the difficulty Nelson and other educators have when talking and teaching the public about this stain on our nation's history.

A painting originally called Portrait of Negro Slave is one of the few items that gives a face to slavery in Canada. The name of the portrait was controversially changed to Portrait of a Haitian Woman.

"The renaming in effect expels slavery from Montreal and Quebec, rendering it only a troubling history of tropical colonies like Haiti and not one of immediate concern to Canadians," said Nelson.

Quoted

"The legacy of the underground railroad is positive and empowering but what that legacy does is that it blinds us and obscures the other things that were going on before the railroad. We had slavery in Canada, it just ended sooner."

Rosemary Sadlier, a descendent of Canadian slaves

Goodbye grade school, hello globe!

Leaving the homeland and the homework?

Parents weigh in on the pros and cons of having children miss school for vacations

Clockwise from top left, Heather Greenwood Davis, her husband Ish Davis and sons Cameron and Ethan pose for a photo in Versailles, France in May 2012. HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS/GLOBETROTTINGMAMA.COM /THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heather Greenwood Davis has few qualms about pulling her children out of school for short-term trips — a practice she plans to continue in future.

In fact, the Toronto-based travel writer is such a firm believer in the benefits of learning beyond the classroom that in 2011, she took a year-long globe-trotting journey with her husband and sons (then aged six and eight).

Greenwood Davis documented their adventures — which spanned six continents and 29 countries — on her website, Globetrotting Mama. Her column Postcards from the Planet, which included photos from her travels and updates on her whereabouts, appeared weekly in Metro in 2012.

"I know the value that travel has brought to my life, even as an adult, and how many times I've been places where I've wished: 'Gosh, if I had seen this when they were trying to teach me out of the geography book or history book, it really would have sat with me better,'" she said in a recent interview.

"Outside of strict educational channels, too, we talk about socializing kids, instilling confidence and all of those sorts of things — and travel offers all of that."

As a travel adviser, Sheila Gallant-Halloran said her busiest periods at work are when her clients are on vacation, such as March Break and the summer. That's one of the reasons the mother of two daughters, aged eight and 14, has previously allowed them to miss school to help accommodate the occasional family vacation, like a fall trip to Walt Disney World or an extended break for travel around Easter.

"Work commitment is the biggest thing for me. But certainly there are price considerations," said Gallant-Halloran, Ottawa-based luxury travel adviser with Vision Travel/Lush Life.

"I have a lot of teacher clients, for example, they can only go on (vacation during) March Break ... it is very difficult for them to take off other times. As a result, they're going for when the majority of people are trying to travel with their children, so they're paying higher costs for flights....

"If you're stuck and you have to travel at that time, you have to actually book far in advance to get the best pricing. And if you don't have that liberty, then you're stuck."

Having children miss several days, a week or more from school for non-essential travel may prove appealing to parents looking to squeeze in family getaways within busy work schedules or seeking to save with last-minute deals. But a British couple with three children recently paid a high price when their kids missed class.

Natasha and Stewart Sutherland had booked a week-long fall trip to Greece a year in advance. Previously, the Department of Education allowed teachers to grant leaves of absence for family holidays during the school term in "special circumstances" of up to 10 school days per year.

But amendments enacted last September removed references to family holiday and extended leave, as well the "statutory threshold" of 10 school days.

The Sutherlands were forced to pay more than more than $1,800 in costs and fines. Meanwhile, an online petition seeking a reversal of the amended rules has gathered more than 200,000 signatures.

Representatives for public school boards in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver told The Canadian Press that cases are addressed on an individual basis, and the decision on whether kids will miss class ultimately rests with the parents, provided they obtain proper clearances from school officials.

Toronto District School Board spokesman Ryan Bird said their policy is that teachers shouldn't be expected to provide detailed classroom work and homework assignments for students who are away for extended periods of time as a result of family or parent-initiated absences.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The power of a passport

"I know the value that travel has brought to my life, even as an adult, and how many times I've been places where I've wished: 'Gosh, if I had seen this when they were trying to teach me out of the geography book or history book, it really would have sat with me better.'"

Heather Greenwood Davis
Travel writer

We're leaving on a jetplane

Greenwood Davis emphasizes the importance of providing ample notice about a potential trip to find out what may be covered during that period and to determine if it's a good time for the child to be away.

- "You might change your mind once you hear that they're studying something you know your child's struggling with. So I think that notice is really important," said Greenwood Davis, whose sons are now nine and 11.

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PLEASE QUOTE: "DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT (PART TIME) — Saskatoon" in the Subject Line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

Skinny dip your favourite fruit

This fondue contains 240 calories per serving. ROSE REISMAN

Sweet Week. Prepare to feel your teeth ache as Metro gets in the mood with a different Valentine's recipe each day this week

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

What makes for a more outstanding Valentine's Day than ending a meal with a luscious chocolate fondue? It's perfect for the romantic couple as well as a great family treat. Not to mention, a bubbling pot of melted silky chocolate during the coldest month of the year will warm up anyone's heart.

My Baileys Light Chocolate Fondue is not an oxymoron! You can definitely have your chocolate and eat it too, without worrying about excess calories, fat and cholesterol. My fondue recipe uses 2 per cent evaporated milk rather than heavy cream, which is traditionally used.

If you want more antioxidants use chocolate with a higher percentage of cocoa. But above 70 per cent cocoa is too bitter for a fondue. Semi sweet has around 35 per cent cocoa content and suits this recipe well. You can also experiment with white or milk chocolate, but you may have to add more evaporated milk.

Any liqueur of your choice will work or you can omit completely. My favourites include Kahlua, crème de menthe, Frangelico or fruit liqueur.

If you don't have a fondue set, just serve in a decorative heat proof bowl surrounded by the dipping ingredients.

Leftover fondue can be refrigerated and reheated for the next dipping party.

Directions

1. In a small saucepan on the lowest heat, combine chocolate and evaporated milk. Whisk constantly for 3 minutes just until chocolate is melted.

2. Add sugar, corn syrup and Baileys and simmer for 5 minutes on the lowest heat, whisking constantly.

3. Place in a bowl or fondue set with ingredients to be dipped.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Ingredients

- 8 oz semi sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup 2% evaporated milk
- 1 cup icing sugar
- 2 tbsp corn syrup
- 2 tbsp Baileys liqueur
- 4 cups combined sliced fruits, dried fruits, mini marshmallows

Steal the spotlight from cheesy cards

This Valentine's Day, get ready to melt your lover's heart with this seductive recipe from Dairy Farmers of Canada.

Begin the evening by firing up the flame of eternal love with the ultimate romantic sharable dish, Canadian Swiss and Canadian Gruyère Cheese Fondue. Both your hearts are bound to melt as you feed each other cubes of bread and flavourful raw vegetables coated in a delicious creamy mixture of Canadian cheese.

Ingredients

- 1 garlic clove, halved
- 1 baguette bread, slightly stale, cut into large cubes
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1 lb (450 g) Canadian Swiss cheese, grated
- 1 lb (450 g) Canadian Gruyere cheese, grated
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) dry white wine
- 1/3 cup (80 ml) kirsch
- Pinch of grated nutmeg
- Freshly ground black pepper

This recipe serves four. DAIRYGOODNESS.CA

Cupid himself will be asking you for your secrets.

1. Rub bottom and sides of a fondue pot with garlic. Place a basket filled with bread cubes on the table.

2. Mix flour and cheeses.

3. Pour wine into the fondue pot and heat over medium heat. Gradually add about a third of the grated Canadian Swiss and Canadian Gruyère cheese, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon until cheese has melted and the mixture begins to bubble.

4. Continue stirring while gradually adding remaining Canadian Swiss and Canadian Grower cheese. Add kirsch and nutmeg, season with pepper and place fondue pot on a lit alcohol burner.

DAIRYGOODNESS.CA

Day 2

Canada's momentum slows after historic day

After a best opening day ever at a Winter Olympics, Canada cooled on Day 2 with a single silver medal in figure skating.

The second-place finish in the new team event gave Canada a total of four medals at the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

Canada opened with a medal of every colour Saturday, including Justine Dufour-Lapointe's gold in women's moguls.

The stated objective for Canada is to win the overall medal count after finishing third with 26 in 2010.

THE GOOD

Canada's figure skaters should feel good about themselves heading into their individual events after capturing silver in the new team event. A showdown is brewing in men's singles between Canada's Patrick Chan and Russia's Evgeni Plushenko.

THE BAD

- Snowboard slopestyle world champion Spencer O'Brien of Courtenay, B.C., had a rough day at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park and finished last. A tearful O'Brien told reporters she was "really sad that I let Canada down."
- No medal in men's downhill, although Erik Guay of Mont Tremblant, Que., Manny Osborne-Paradis of Invermere, B.C., and Calgary's Jan Hudec have another chance in Sunday's super-G to end a 20-year medal drought in alpine skiing.
- Alex Harvey of St-Ferréolles-Neiges, Que., will have more chances at a cross-country medal at these Winter Games, but he was 18th in his first attempt in the men's skiathlon.

Canada's Sunday grade: C

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bittersweet silver for Virtue, Moir

Figure skating.
Canada places second in inaugural team event, but duo worried about ground lost on American rivals

Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir perform their free dance in the ice dance portion of the team figure skating event on Sunday in Sochi, Russia. MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Scott Moir peered up the point spread and cursed quietly under his breath.

Then somebody reminded him he'd just won an Olympic medal.

Canada captured silver in the new team figure skating event at the Sochi Olympics on Sunday, but it came with mixed feelings.

Elation for Kevin Reynolds, who filled in admirably for Patrick Chan in his first international event this season. Shock for Tessa Virtue and Moir, who lost to American ice dance rivals Meryl Davis and Charlie White by their largest margin ever.

"We got smoked today, not even close," said Moir, Canada's team captain. "We just can't be that way ... it's not fun to be seven points behind in the free program. We don't plan on being there in a week."

Cheered on by an arena filled largely by its countrymen, President Vladimir Putin, and a burly man banging on a huge bass drum, Russia clinched its first gold medal of the Games with a dominant 75 of a possible 80 points. The Canadians had 65, five more than the third-place Americans.

The nine-member Canadian team — Virtue and Moir, Chan, Reynolds, Kaetlyn Osmond, Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford and Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch — grabbed each other in a massive group hug afterward.

They clasped hands in a Broadway style bow in the flower ceremony. Moir, however, didn't get a bouquet — the presenters were somehow one bouquet short — so Virtue reached over and clasped his hand and they held her flowers together.

In the post-podium victory lap, Moir sailed a huge Canadian flag over his head.

"We couldn't be happier for our team," Virtue said. "It's been so much fun to cheer on our teammates all week long, they've had a lot of personal bests, a lot of special Olympic moments and it doesn't get any better than that."

But Canada's defending ice dance champions have to hope for much better when their individual event begins next Sunday.

Davis and White, who had never beaten the Canadians in the free dance by more than about a point-and-a-half, scored 114.34, topping them on the technical score and all five components — what used to be the artistic — scores.

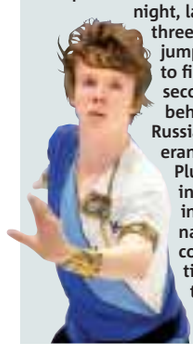
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We'll take a night here and celebrate with our team, but you can already see the wheels turning in my head..."
Scott Moir

Highlight of the night

Kevin Reynolds, a shaggy-haired 23-year-old from Coquitlam, B.C., had Canada's best performance of the night, landing three quad jumps to finish second behind Russian veteran Evgeni Plushenko in his first international competition of the season.



Chan savours his first Olympic medal

Patrick Chan cheers on his peers on Sunday in Sochi.
DARRON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patrick Chan collected his first Olympic medal Sunday, with the hope of more to come in the men's individual figure skating event.

But after watching teammate Kevin Reynolds, singles competitor Kaetlyn Osmond and ice dancers Scott Moir and Tessa Virtue wrap up the inaugural Olympic team figure skating competition, the three-time world champion from Toronto was feeling the glow of a Canadian silver medal.

Chan skated the short program to kick off the team event Thursday. Chan was fifth four years ago at the Olympics in Vancouver.

The 23-year-old Chan was on hand to cheer on his teammates in the Iceberg Skating Palace at the three-day event.

"Extremely nice," he said of winning a medal, which will be awarded at a ceremony Monday. "It's surreal, it's extremely surreal."

The men's event will begin on Thursday and conclude Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"And to win a medal and to have such teammates, it really makes me proud to be Canadian." Patrick Chan

4 SPORTS

Team Saskatchewan skip Stefanie Lawton delivers her rock to team Yukon/Northwest Territories during draw 17 curling action at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts on Friday in Montreal. Lawton and her rink were defeated 7-3 by Manitoba in Sunday's bronze-medal match. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Carey settles for bronze at Scotties

Curling. Manitoba rink claims third place at women's national curling finals with win over Saskatchewan

Championship

Rachel Homan's Team Canada beat Val Sweeting's Alberta rink 8-6 to win a second consecutive Scotties Tournament of Hearts on Sunday night.

Winning bronze took some of the sting away for Chelsea Carey.

Carey's Manitoba rink stole three in the 10th end to post a 7-3 victory over Saskatchewan's Stefanie Lawton to claim the bronze medal at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts on Sunday.

"The disappointment doesn't go away, but you want to at least salvage what you can out of it," said Carey. "I don't agree with this even being a game. I never have.

"The Page (playoff) system builds in a bronze medallist. But, as much as I disagree with the game, it's nice to win a game to get there."

Carey made two perfect draws to score two in the eighth end for a 4-3 lead.

Lawton blanked the ninth and had the hammer going into the final end, but then disaster struck.

Second Sherri Singler threw a flash, third Sherry Anderson hit a guard and soon there were five Manitoba stones ringing the button.

Lawton tried to sneak in an angled raise with her last shot, but it couldn't get through and Carey got a steal of three.

"It was worth a try,"said Lawton. "It was there...I had to stick it right on the nose. I couldn't roll off. But it was a bit too hard. We didn't leave ourselves in a great position to score one that end.

"It would have been nice to finish with a medal, but I'm proud of our girls. It was a great tournament for us. It's unfortunate how it ended."

Carey finished second in the round robin but lost the first-versus-second game to Homan and then was beaten by Sweeting in the semifinal.

"A podium finish is good at our first Scotties and to come back and battle today, I'm so proud of the girls for hanging in there," said Carey. "It's tough to get motivated for this and it was a tough game to play, but they just hung in there and we were able to pull it off.

"There's a little bit of solace in that anyway."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was in the crowd of 2,261 at the Maurice Richard Arena.

"That's pretty cool to say you played in front of the prime minister," said Lawton. "Too bad we didn't win."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEDALS

(through 13 medal events)

Nation	G	S	B	Total
Norway	2	1	4	7
Netherlands	2	1	1	4
United States	2	0	2	4
Canada	**1**	**2**	**1**	**4**
Russia	1	2	1	4
Austria	1	1	0	2
Sweden	0	2	0	2
Czech Republic	0	1	1	2
Italy	0	1	1	2
Germany	1	0	0	1
Poland	1	0	0	1
Slovakia	1	0	0	1
Switzerland	1	0	0	1
Finland	0	1	0	1
Slovenia	0	1	0	1
Britain	0	0	1	1
Ukraine	0	0	1	1

WHAT CANADA DID

SUNDAY

ALPINE SKIIING

Men's downhill — Erik Guay, Mont-Tremblant, Que. (21st overall, two minutes 7.04 seconds); Ben Thomsen, Inveremere, B.C. (19, 2:08.00); Jan Hudec, Calgary (21, 2:08.49); Manuel Osborne-Paradis, Vancouver (25, 2:09.00).

BIATHLON

Women's 7.5-kilometre Sprint — Rosanna Crawford, Canmore, Alta., (25th, 22:10.8, one penalty); Megan Imrie, Falcon Lake, Man. (31, 22:19.5 (1); Zina Kocher, Red Deer, Alta. (32, 22:25.5 (2); Megan Heinicke, Prince George, B.C., (59, 23:34.5 (3).

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Men's 30-km Skiathlon — Alex Harvey, St-Ferreol-les-Neiges, Que. (18th, one hour 10 minutes 0.2 seconds); Ivan Babikov, Canmore, Alta. (25, 1:10:14.6); Graeme Killick, Fort McMurray, Alta. (45, 1:13:16.1).

FIGURE SKATING

Team Event (free skates)

Men — Kevin Reynolds, Coquitlam, B.C., (second, 167.92 points); **Ladies** — Kaetlyn Osmond, Marystown, N.L (fifth, 110.73); **Ice Dance** — Tessa Virtue, London, Ont., and Scott Moir, Ilderton, Ont. (second, 107.56) — **Canada won the silver medal** with 65 points.

LUGE

Men's singles — Sam Edney, Calgary (placed 11th overall in event with a time of 3:29.777 after four runs); Mitchel Malyk, Calgary (26, 3:32.157); John Fennell, Calgary (27, 3:32.716).

SKI JUMPING

Men's K90 (normal hill) individual — Mackenzie Boyd-Clowes, Calgary (ranked 36th after first jump with 114.4 points); Dusty Korek, Calgary (39, 111.1) — neither qualified for second and final jump.

SNOWBOARDING

Women's slopestyle — Spencer O'Brien, Courtenay, B.C. (12th overall in final round with best run of 35.00 points); Jenna Blasman, Kitchener, Ont. (11th in semifinals, 32.25 - did not qualify for final).

SPEEDSKATING (LONG TRACK)

Women's 3,000 — Brittany Schussler, Winnipeg (20th, 4:14.65); Ivanie Blondin, Ottawa (25, 4:18.70).

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

ALPINE SKIING

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia

MEN'S DOWNHILL

(starting position in parentheses)

1. (11) Matthias Mayer, Austria, two minutes 6.23 seconds; 2. (20) Christof Innerhofer, Italy, 2:06.29; 3. (8) Kjetil Jansrud, Norway, 2:06.33; 4. (18) Aksel Lund Svindal, Norway, 2:06.52; 5. **Also — 10. (21) Erik Guay, Mont-Tremblant, Que., 2:07.04; 19. (6) Ben Thomsen, Invereremere, B.C., 2:08.00; 21. (2) Jan Hudec, Calgary, 2:08.49; 25. (28) Manuel Osborne-Paradis, Vancouver, 2:09.00.**

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia

MEN'S 30-KILOMETRE SKIATHLON

1. Dario Cologna, Switzerland, one hour eight minutes 15.4 seconds; 2. Marcus Hellner, Sweden, 1:08:15.8; 3. Martin Johnsrud Sundby, Norway, 1:08:16.8. **Also — 18. Alex Harvey, St-Ferreol-les-Neiges, Que., 1:10:00.2; 25. Ivan Babikov, Canmore, Alta., 1:10:14.6; 45. Graeme Killick, Fort McMurray, Alta., 1:13:16.1.**

BIATHLON

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia

WOMEN'S 7.5-KILOMETRE SPRINT

(penalty laps in parentheses)

1. Anastasiya Kuzmina, Slovakia, 21:06.8 (0); 2. Olga Vilukhina, Russia, 21:26.7 (0); 3. Vita Semerenko, Ukraine, 21:28.5 (0); **Also — 25. Rosanna Crawford, Canmore, Alta., 22:10.8 (1); 31. Megan Imrie, Falcon Lake. Man., 22:19.5 (1); 32. Zina Kocher, Red Deer, Alta., 22:25.5 (2); 59. Megan Heinicke, Prince George, B.C., 23:34.5 (3).**

FIGURE SKATING

TEAM EVENT (FINALS)

Men — 1. Evgeni Plushenko, Russia, 168.20 points; **2. Kevin Reynolds, Coquitlam, B.C., 167.92**; 3. Tatsuki Machida, Japan, 165.85; 4. Jason Brown, U.S., 153.67; 5. Paul Bonifacio Parkinson, Italy, 121.23; **Ladies** — 1. Julia Lipnitskaia, Russia, 141.51; 2. Gracie Gold, U.S., 129.38; 3. Valentina Marchei, Italy, 112.51; 4. Akiko Suzuki, Japan, 112.33; **5. Kaetlyn Osmond, Marystown, N.L, 110.73**; **Ice Dance** — 1. Meryl Davis and Charlie White, U.S., 114.34; **2. Tessa Virtue, London, Ont., and Scott Moir, Ilderton, Ont., 107.56**; 3. Elena Ilinykh and Nikita Katsalapov, Russia, 103.48; 4. Charlene Guignard and Marco Fabbri, Italy, 81.25; 5. Cathy Reed and Chris Reed, Japan, 76.34.

Final Standings — 1. Russia, 75 points; **2. Canada, 65**; 3. U.S., 60; 4. Italy, 52; 5. Japan, 51.

SNOWBOARDING

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia

WOMEN'S SLOPESTYLE

Final Rankings

1. Jamie Anderson, U.S., 95.25; 2. Enni Rukajarvi, Finland, 92.50; 3. Jenny Jones, Britain, 87.25; 4. Sina Candrian, Switzerland, 87.00; 5. Sarka Pancochova, Czech Republic, 86.25; **Also — 12. Spencer O'Brien, Courtenay, B.C., 35.00; Semifinals — 11. Jenna Blasman, Kitchener, Ont., (32.25; 10.50) 32.25 (did not advance).**

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Sunday's results

Sweden 1 Japan 0

Russia 4 Germany 1

Saturday's results

Canada 5 Switzerland 0

U.S. 3 Finland 1

Monday's games

U.S. vs. Switzerland, 5 a.m.

Finland vs. **Canada**, 10 a.m.

Figure Skating

Parkinson hits personal best

Ottawa-born Paul Bonifacio Parkinson scored a season-best score in his free skating program Sunday as Italy finished fourth at the inaugural team figure skating event at the Sochi Olympics.

Parkinson, who turns 23 next Sunday, was given a score of 121.23, up from the 120.70 he posted at the Nebelhorn Trophy last September.

Parkinson holds dual citizenship by virtue of his mother, who was born in Italy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Curling. Canada, Norway are dressed for success

The Norwegian curlers have their kaleidoscope pants, but the Brad Jacobs team out of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., is fiery, fit and ready to show it at the Winter Games.

Expect to see an intense Canadian men's curling team in form-fitting clothes when they step on the ice to open the Olympic curling competition Monday.

"We're going to be bringing everything we've got to every single game and the emotion that pours out of us sometimes, we can't control it," the skip says. "You can see that on the ice when a big shot is made and we all explode together.

"The Norwegians are famous for their pants and bring a lot of colour to the game. Our team is known for the tight shirts and tight uniforms more than the colourful pants."

The Canadian men open against Germany's John Jahr and Switzerland's Sven Michel at the Ice Cube Curling Centre on Monday.

The Jennifer Jones team out of Winnipeg takes on China's Bingyu Wang, the 2010 bronze medallist, to kick off the women's round-robin Monday.

Canada's Brad Jacobs delivers the rock during a men's curling training session in Sochi on Sunday. WONG MAYE-E/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jacobs, third Ryan Fry and brothers E.J. and Ryan Harnden on the front end are riding a rocket that launched when curling nomad Fry joined the team a year and a half ago following stints with the Brad Gushue and Jeff Stoughton teams.

The foursome won the 2013 Tim Hortons Brier for their first Canadian title.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If someone is behaving badly that does not mean you have to follow their example. This is going to be an important week, especially for relationships, so don't go annoying people just for the fun of it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Don't be afraid to admit that you are out of your depth. The moment you speak up, you will have friends and family members rushing to assist you, so why suffer in silence?

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Mars in Libra endows you with amazing levels of energy and huge self-belief. However, no matter how confident you feel, you would be wise not to take anything for granted.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Don't worry too much if not a lot is going right for you. Later in the week the tide will turn in your favour and you will be in control of your own destiny again. You have little to fear and lots to look forward to.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Steer clear of others' disputes today. No matter how well-intentioned you may be, you are likely to end up supporting the wrong side, which won't do your rep for picking winners much good.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone who is down on their luck will come to you for assistance and you won't have the heart to turn them away. Hopefully you'll also have the sense to see that their troubles are of their own making.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Mars in your sign makes you confident and assertive but you are still advised to start the week slowly and carefully. Save yourself for next weekend when you'll be a winner in everything you do.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Don't worry too much if you feel gloomy today because you will brighten up later in the week. If you don't feel like working or socializing, don't force yourself. Sit quietly, and meditate.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Put feelings of regret and remorse behind you and act as if life has never been better. Even a livewire Sag gets a bit down now and again but you bounce back faster than most.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will find it easier to be assertive on the work front over the next seven days but don't go too far and give others the impression that you are turning into a dictator. Persuasion always works better than coercion.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The message of the stars as the new week begins is you have nothing to worry about. For some reason though you can't help but be suspicious and that could cause problems with colleagues.

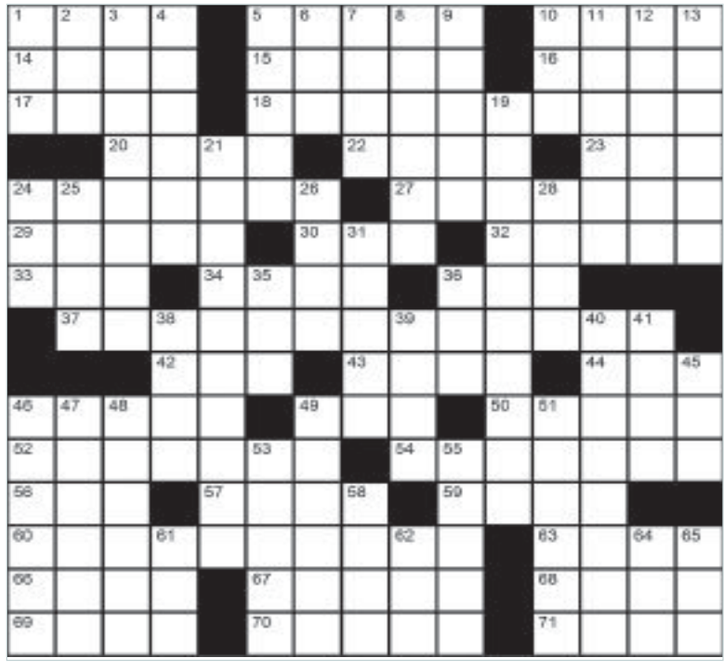
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be tempted to cut corners but if you do you will be found out around the time of the full moon on the 14th.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

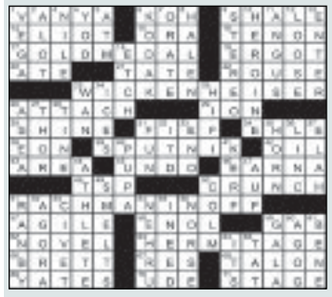
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. __ Park, in Hamilton
5. 13th-century Russia invader
10. Engaged guy's event
14. Seed covering
15. Came about
16. Space
17. "Am _ __ early?"
18. Canadian Country Music: Stephanie Cadman, Kendel Carson and Miranda Mulholland's trio: 2 wds.
20. Corleone Family leader
22. Salt amount
23. Tub
24. "A Little Respect" group
27. Prehistoric stone artifact
29. Radio dial
30. Perform
32. "The War of the __" (1989)
33. House room
34. Ms. Reid
36. "Jeff __." (Canadian comedy series)
37. SOCHI 2014 - Biathlon component: 2 wds.
42. Celtic sea god
43. Hair removal brand
44. Goon
46. Font flourish
49. Volcano's spewn material
50. "Are too!" comeback: 2 wds.
52. "Kate & __" (2001)
54. Disentangles
56. Ms. Rand
57. Origin
59. Hosp. readouts
60. Canadian History: 1839 'Report' writer: 2 wds.
63. Thunderbirds org.
66. "___ ___ the other hand..."
67. Manage: 2 wds.
68. Cars: __, oil and filter
69. Ms. Suvari
70. __ Edibles (Mrs. Garrett's gourmet shop on "The Facts of Life")
71. Prophet

Down
1. Moo goo __ pan (Take-out dish)
2. Painting
3. Explorer-to-Canada, John Cabot aka __ Caboto
4. The Plaza Hotel's fictional resident
5. Small drum
6. Standard song: "Chances __"
7. Narrated
8. Tilted
9. Peanut Butter Cups bigwig, H.B. __
10. Roosted
11. Country singer
12. Get the drink to fizz
13. Actress Jennie, and surnamesakes
19. SOCHI 2014 - Icy sport: 2 wds.
21. Saskatchewan town
24. LAX posting
25. Penitent person
26. Sense organs
28. CCR tune
31. Lyricist Sammy, and surnamesakes
35. Ireland's flyer, __ Lingus
36. Law, in Lyon
38. Impertinent
39. Honolulu's home
40. Trivial matter
41. British prison
45. Mil. posts
46. SOCHI 2014 - Alpine Skiing event
47. A.A. Milne character
48. The Crystals hit: "Da Doo ___ __"
49. Worshipped
51. SOCHI 2014 - Freestyle Skiing event
53. Scoundrel
55. Jules Verne's captain, and others
58. So
61. Genetic stuff
62. __ _ crossroads
64. Pres. Lincoln
65. Iron: French

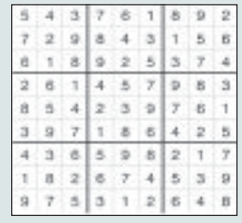
Friday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Friday's Sudoku



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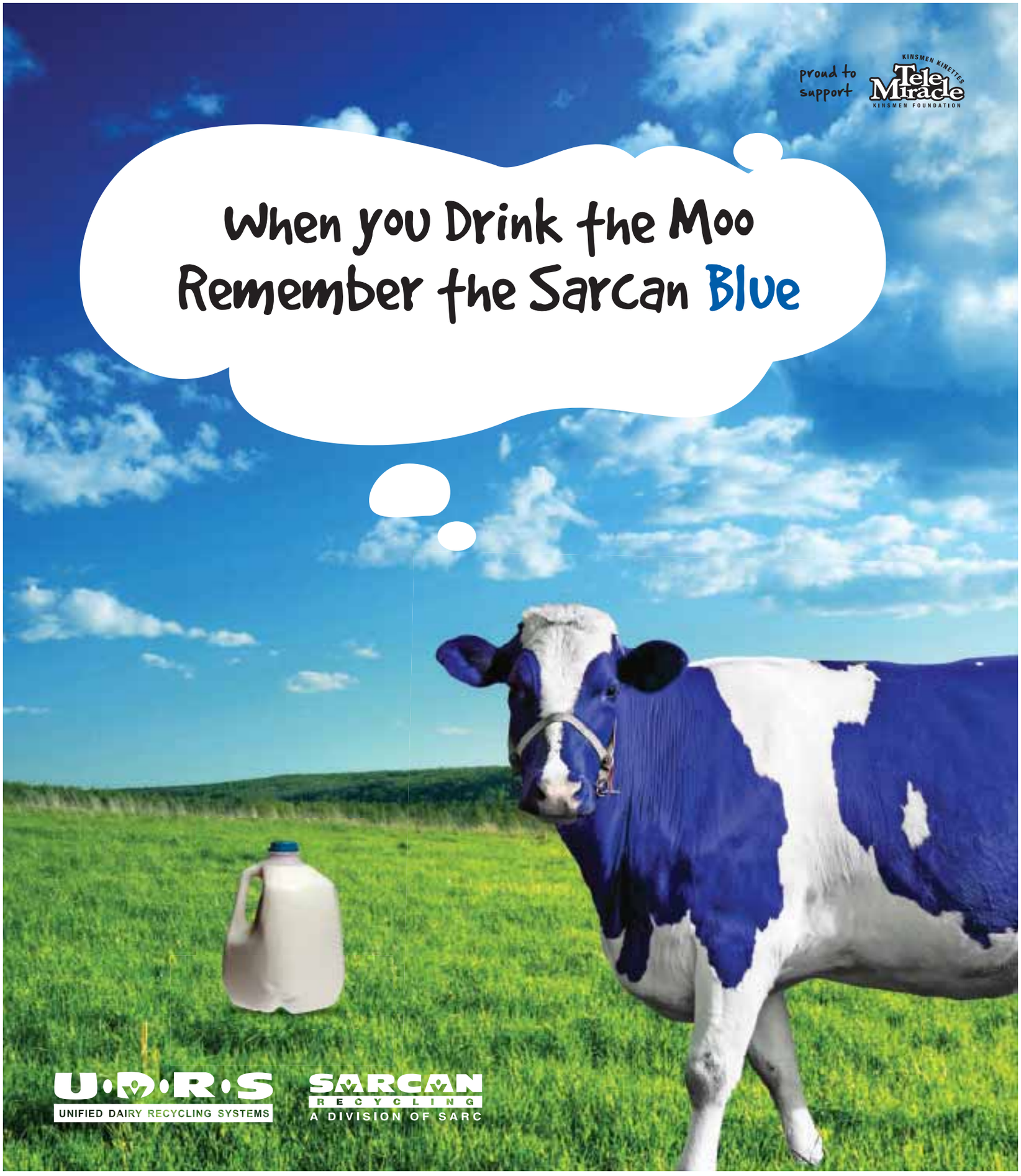
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